



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
February 11, 2015 at 8:35 a.m.

by

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **HB 1440 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 1440.

The Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program (HK Program), a partnership between the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing (UHM Nursing), is supporting the DOE to achieve student, school, and system success by building school based health services. This effort is a safety net partnership to increase access to healthcare for a vulnerable population – pre-kindergarten to high school keiki – by providing school health nursing and primary care services in the public schools. The long-term goal is building a fiscally sustainable healthcare delivery model using public funding and cost recovery to moderate the impact of social determinants of health of children attending public schools.

Through the partnership of two sister public agencies - the DOE and UHM Nursing, we have a tremendous opportunity to use our public schools as the gateway to health for children, their families and the school teachers and staff. The HK Program uses school nurses and advanced practice nurse practitioners (APRNs) to provide evidence based school health services to ensure screening for common conditions, up to date immunizations, and collaboration with community care providers to manage chronic conditions that impact readiness to learn. Further, the program partners with both state agencies and the health care delivery sector to forge innovative partnerships to support building a robust system to improve health and achievement of students, schools, and communities.

Evidence from around the country shows that when a school nurse is present, student attendance improves, as does academic performance. Children spend more time in

school (seat time). Principals and teachers are not called upon to address health concerns and can focus on helping children learn.

The HK Program is working at the school level with parents, teachers, and principals to lead the school wellness plan effort, ensure continuity of care for children with chronic conditions, and provide emergency care on site. As a resource and point of contact for health and wellness in the school, the nurse supports the school community to help children learn. The nurse is the "school health coordinator" for the implementation of an organized approach to school health. We help facilitate health programming in the district and school and between the school and community.

School health programs and policies in Hawai'i have resulted from a wide variety of federal, state and local mandates, regulations, initiatives, and funding streams. The result is a "patchwork" of policies and programs with differing standards, requirements, and populations to be served. In addition, the professionals who oversee the different pieces of the patchwork come from multiple disciplines: education, nursing, social work, psychology, nutrition, and school administration, each bringing specialized expertise, training, and approaches.

Coordinating the many parts of school health into a quilt by engaging in a - systematic approach - will enable schools to:

- Eliminate gaps and reduce redundancies across the many initiatives and funding streams;
- Build partnerships and teamwork among school health and education professionals in the school;
- Build collaboration and enhance communication among public health (DOH), school health (DOE), higher education (University of Hawai'i) and health professionals in the community; and
- Focus efforts on helping students engage in protective, health-enhancing behaviors and avoid risk behaviors.

The legislature is to be applauded for your willingness to invest in the partnership of the DOE and UHM Nursing to improve student success through improved health screening, monitoring, and management of chronic conditions that impact learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/11/2015  
**Time:** 08:35 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1440 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program. Requires matching funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) strongly supports HB 1440 in appropriating funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

The purpose of the program is to build and enhance school-based health services to screen for treatable health conditions, provide referrals to primary health care and patient centered medical home services, prevent and control communicable disease and other health problems, and provide emergency care for illness or injury.

The proposed measure provides the Department with access to evidence based practices to ensure our students receive quality care services. The academic resources and participation of expert faculty provides leverage beyond the actual funding commitments. In just six months, the Department has outcomes that are improving the readiness of children to learn in school. Highlights include: creating detailed profiles of the health status and needs of individual schools; organizing of programs for routine screening, referral and follow-up for easily treatable conditions that impact learning; evidence based standards of care for conditions that impact attendance such as ukus (pediculus humanus capitis); increased collaboration with the Department of Health; and engagement with local providers to improve care for children with chronic conditions.

The Department recognizes that Medicaid funding could be available for school health nursing services and has begun conversations with the Department of Human Services to develop a cost recovery plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



hawaii keiki expansion budget 9-8-14 MB.pdf



hawaii keiki overview 12-18-14 BF.pdf

**HAWAI'I KEIKI: HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN**  
**Annual Program Budget Year 1 (July 1 to June 30)**

**PERSONNEL**

Project Role	Annual Salary	FTE	# Mos	Req. Salary	Fringe	Requested Salary & Fringe
Executive Director	105,060	1.00	12.00	105,060	36,771	141,831
Associate Director						
1-Oahu & 1-Neighbor Island	87,550	2.00	10.00	175,100	61,285	236,385
Complex Area MS RN	87,550	15.00	10.00	1,313,250	459,638	1,772,888
Innovation Zone MS RN	87,550	4.00	10.00	350,200	122,570	472,770
Data Specialist	50,000	1.00	12.00	50,000	17,500	67,500
Program Assistant	41,600	1.00	12.00	41,600	14,560	56,160
IT Support	50,000	0.50	12.00	25,000	8,750	33,750
Lecturer	16,857	-	-	18,000	6,300	24,300
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	-	24.50	-	2,078,210	727,374	2,805,584

**TRAVEL**

Traveler(s)	Purpose	# Travelers	# Trips Per Person	\$/trip	Travel Cost	Requested Travel Cost
Complex Area MS RNs	Annual Meeting-Oahu	16	1	300	4,800	4,800
Innovation Zone MS RNs	Annual Meeting - Oahu	2	1	300	600	600
Complex Area Maui MS RN	Molokai & Lanai Visits	1	16	300	4,800	4,800
Director & Assoc Director	Complex Area Visits	2	10	300	6,000	6,000
<b>Total TRAVEL</b>					16,200	16,200

**MILEAGE**

Traveler(s)	Purpose	# Travelers	# Miles	Mi Rate	Mileage Cost	Requested Mileage Cost
Complex Area MS RNs	School visits	15	3,600	0.565	30,510	30,510
Innovation Zone MS RNs	School visits	4	3,600	0.565	8,136	8,136
Director & Assoc Director	MS RN & School visits	3	2,400	0.565	4,068	4,068
<b>Total MILEAGE</b>		22	9,600	-	42,714	42,714

**MATERIALS & SUPPLIES**

Item	Purpose	# Units	Cost Per Unit	Supply Cost	Requested Supply Cost
Lap Top Computer	Data/Communication/Telehealth	20	1,600	32,000	32,000
Mobile phone instrument	Communication/Telehealth	18	150	2,700	2,700
Ophthalmoscope	Health assessment	18	600	10,800	10,800
Bloodpressure Kit	Health assessment	18	145	2,610	2,610
Supplies	Electronic subscriptions, books, misc.	-	-	25,000	25,000
<b>Total MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b>		-	-	73,110	73,110

**UTIL & COMMUNICATION**

Item	Purpose	# Units	\$/Unit	Util/Com Cost	Requested Util/Com Cost
Mobile service	Wireless phone/data service (mo)	22	100	26,400	26,400
<b>Total UTIL &amp; COMM</b>		-	-	26,400	26,400

<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>2,964,008</b>
<b>INDIRECT COST (15%)</b>	<b>444,601</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,408,609</b>

# Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn

Hawai'i Department of Education and UH Mānoa Nursing

## Goal

The program is designed to improve the access and quality of health services available to school children in the school community by coordinating and expanding existing efforts of the partners and community resources.

## Complex Areas

- Kapaa Kaua'i Waimea Complex Area, at Kekaha School, Kaua'i
- Ka'u Kea'au Pahoa Zone of School Innovation, Hawai'i
- Nanakuli Waianae Zone of School Innovation, O'ahu at Nanaikapono School
- Kailua Kalaheo Complex Area, Olomana School, O'ahu
- Farrington Kaiser Kalani Complex Area, O'ahu

## Contact

**Brendon Friedman**  
RN, MS, MBA  
Director  
[brendonf@hawaii.edu](mailto:brendonf@hawaii.edu)  
(808) 956-4897

Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn



**NURSING**

UNIVERSITY of HAWAII at MĀNOA  
*Leadership • Excellence • Innovation*



## Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn

The program is a partnership between the Hawai'i Department of Education and UH Mānoa Nursing and sits at the intersection of education and health to support the DOE to achieve student, school, and system success. There are 5 participating Complex Areas on Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island, and O'ahu.

Students succeed academically when they come to school ready to learn. The evidence is clear that:

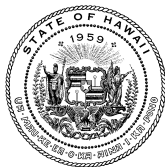
- Hunger, chronic illness, or physical and emotional abuse, can lead to poor school performance.
- Health-risk behaviors such as substance use, violence, and physical inactivity are consistently linked to academic failure and often affect students' school attendance, grades, test scores, and ability to pay attention in class.
- School based health programs decrease dismissal from school and are associated with better attendance.

## Building School Based Health Services

This effort is enhancing and building school based health services that screen for treatable health conditions; provide referral to primary health care and patient centered medical home services; prevent and control communicable disease and other health problems; and provide emergency care for illness or injury.

The program functions at three levels to support achievement of strategic goals for student, school, and system success:

- Working with each participating Complex Area Superintendent, the Hawai'i Keiki Program is creating a model that reflects the needs of the individual Complex Area considering student demographics, staffing patterns, available support services, and health care access within the community.
- UH Mānoa Nursing master's prepared RNs (including APRNs also known as nurse practitioners) are available in project schools and with parent's consent, can deliver screening, direct services, ensure continuity of care for the increasing number of children with chronic conditions. They coordinate and collaborate with the Public Health Nurses from the Department of Health. The Complex based Hawai'i Keiki nurses responsibilities include the following:
  - Lead the school wellness plan activity.
  - Support the school health aide.
  - Assessment and management of acute events.
  - Participation in care management for chronic conditions.
  - Data collection for monitoring of trends in acute and chronic conditions.
  - Collaboration with the Kapi'olani Community College School Health Aide (SHA) Training Program.
- The UH Mānoa Nursing school, via the program director, works directly with the Office of the DOE Superintendent to provide access to academic evidence based expertise in health promotion and disease prevention, alignment and coordination opportunities for health and education, and resources for public and health sciences education partnership.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE**  
4967 KILAUEA AVENUE  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

**Date:** 2/11/2015  
**Time:** 8:35 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Person Testifying:** Donna Lum Kagawa,  
Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Superintendent  
**Title of Bill:** H.B. 1440 RELATING TO EDUCATION  
**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program. Requires matching funds.

The Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area strongly supports HB 1440 in appropriating funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

The Hawai'i Keiki Program has added a lot of value for Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani schools. One of the primary responsibilities of the Hawai'i Keiki nurse for our complex area is to develop the 24 school health aides and one (1) registered nurse in Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani schools. The Hawai'i Keiki nurse surveyed the health aides to learn more about what is going on in the health rooms and to learn more about the varying school health policies. Using the results from the survey, the Hawai'i Keiki nurse is starting to conduct regular meetings and trainings with the school health aides to enhance their practice.

The Hawai'i Keiki nurse is helping to address chronic absenteeism by helping schools to develop policies that will keep students in school. One particular example is related to ukus (or head lice). Based on the survey results, school health aides identified ukus as the number one health issue at schools and one of the top five reasons students are sent home from the health room. However, there's no statewide school policy on head lice so each Hawai'i public school is left to decide on their own when a student should be sent home. The Hawai'i Keiki nurse is in the process of developing a policy, based on national guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Association of School Nurses, and has begun educating Principals and school health aides.

The Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area strongly supports this bill to ensure the continuation of this partnership to support our student population and to keep our keiki healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.  
Donna Lum Kagawa, Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Superintendent

STATE OF  
HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
LEEWARD DISTRICT OFFICE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD,  
ROOM 588  
KAPOLEI, HAWAII  
96707

Date: 2/11/2015  
Time: 08:35 AM  
Location: 329  
Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Ann Mahi, Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area Superintendent

Title of Bill: HB 1440 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.  
Requires matching funds.

Department's Position:

This is written in strong support of HB 1440 in appropriating funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

Addressing health and wellness in our schools has always been a challenge. Upon visiting Cincinnati Olyer Elementary to view their School Based Health Center (SBHC) this past summer with colleagues, it was clear that Hawaii needed to begin efforts to implement such a model. I believe the addition of the Hawaii Keiki advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) in the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area has been a step in the right direction. The pilot program that we have implemented in partnership with the University of Hawaii, School of Nursing has started the initiative by which we can share positive outcomes and hopes for continued support through this legislation.

The environment in which our keiki live and learn is very challenging and the accessibility to health care within the school community would provide the students and their families a means to address proactively, issues such as asthma, vaccinations, childhood obesity, colds/flu and nutrition. All of this to support daily attendance and learning in school.

Chronic absenteeism remains a priority with an average of 25% of our elementary students being identified in this category. One of the goals for the APRN is to develop an action plan that can be utilized not only by schools on then coast but as a model statewide to cut down on absenteeism. The APRN assigned to Nanaikapono Elementary School has assisted Nanakuli-Waianae complex area schools with coordinating various health screenings requested by school administrators such as vision, hearing and dental as these are the first barriers to students being able to learn in the classroom. He provides support for our School Health Aides and has been active in collaborating with the public health nurses to address community health issues. In a community where our members want to make health and wellness a priority but have difficulty doing so, the APRN has reached out through community groups, bulletins, coffee talks, social media, home visits, and parent nights to provide education and assist families to make those healthier choices.

The APRN at Nanaikapono Elementary has allowed Principal Debra Knight to further her commitment of promoting a healthy lifestyle to all members of her school community and providing the support necessary to be successful. By providing school based health services, they have been able to reduce the number of children sent home from the health room allowing more children to remain in school. Parents are very appreciative of the follow up and proactive nature of the APRN program and have been willing to share concerns and problems that they face with the health care system. The APRN has



been a valuable resource in assisting them and connecting them to the appropriate community agency.

If we are to be truly committed to the academic success of the keiki in our schools, we need to also address their health needs and ensure that they receive quality health services. By doing so we give our keiki a better chance at being successful as a student and in life. An APRN on campus will provide that expertise and support that the schools, students, parents and the community need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

If you are in need of any further information, you may contact me at our office: Phone (808) 692-8000 or email me at [ann\\_mahi@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:ann_mahi@notes.k12.hi.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann A. Mahi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "Mahi" clearly distinguishable.

Ann A. Mahi  
Complex Area Superintendent  
Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area  
State of Hawaii, Department of Education  
601 Kamokila Blvd. Room 588  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**WINDWARD OAHU DISTRICT**  
46-169 KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY  
KANELOHE, HAWAII 96744

**Date:** 2/11/2015

**Time:** 8:35 AM

**Location:** 329

**Person Testifying:** Suzanne Mulcahy, Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Area Superintendent

**Title of Bill:** HB 1440 RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program. Requires matching funds.

The Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Area strongly supports HB 1440 in appropriating funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

The Hawai'i Keiki Program has added tremendous value for Kailua-Kalaheo Schools. The Hawai'i Keiki nurse, based at Olomana, has provided a great deal of individualized student support to a school with a very unique population. For the greater complex area, the Hawai'i Keiki nurse has been focused on development of the 14 school health aides in Kailua-Kalaheo schools. She surveyed the health aides to learn more about what the work of the health aid is and about typical visits, challenges or concerns related to the varying school health policies. Using the results from the survey, the Hawai'i Keiki nurse began to conduct regular meetings and trainings with the school health aides to enhance their practice. Additionally, she is working with community organizations to ensure that all Kailua-Kalaheo elementary students have access to vision and hearing screenings.

The Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Area strongly supports this bill to ensure the continuation of this partnership to support our student population and to keep our keiki healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.  
Suzanne Mulcahy, Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Area Superintendent



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Date:** 2/11/2015  
**Time:** 08:35 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education  
**Person Testifying:** Debra Knight, Nanaikapono Elementary School Principal  
**Title of Bill:** HB 1440 RELATING TO EDUCATION  
**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.  
Requires matching funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Nanaikapono Elementary Principal strongly supports HB 1440 in appropriating funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

Although the focus in our schools are on academics, we as administration and staff know that in order for a child to be successful in school they have to not only be present but ready to learn as well. When one facet of a child's life is out of balance, it affects their overall well-being. Among the myriad of health conditions our children deal with, we also deal with other social determinants that may make it difficult for our keiki to be successful not only in school but also in life.

Nanaikapono Elementary has a student population of 867 students, of which about 90% receive free and reduced lunch. We have scored zero on our Strive HI status for chronic absenteeism for the last two years. That means 41% of our students have missed 15 days or more of school in the 2013-2014 school year and then 32% in the 2014-2015 school year. In assessing the root cause we determined that about one-third of our students had a health condition listed on their emergency cards, mostly asthma, allergies, and other health conditions that kept them out of school. We needed to build a wellness framework into our school academic plan to address our student's needs.

With the addition of our Hawaii Keiki Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), we have been able to focus on those identified health areas and are now moving in a positive direction towards health and wellness. Through the community health needs assessment conducted by the APRN in the beginning of this school year, we were able to gather valuable information about our students as well as their families and our community. Through the coordination of the APRN, we were able to connect with the necessary providers to assist in addressing these key health issues. Whether it was working with the public health nurses on obtaining emergency action plans for children, assisting the DOH disease branch with tracking the flu, collaborating with local providers from the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center to obtain water bottle filling stations to promote healthy drinks, or partaking in community groups like the Alignment 96792 Health and Wellness committee to make the community a model of health and wellness, the APRN has truly been an invaluable asset for our keiki.

I have provided a very small glimpse of how the addition of the APRN on our campus has been able to improve the health and wellness of our keiki, staff, and community in such a short amount of time. The number of students we are sending home from the health room this year are lower than last year, meaning more children are being able to be seen by the APRN and remain in school. The continued efforts put forth by the APRN will no doubt continue to complement our efforts in the DOE allowing our children to not only show up to school but more importantly being healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OLOMANA SCHOOL  
42-522 Kalanianaʻole Highway  
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

**Date:** 2/11/2015

**Time:** 8:35 AM

**Location:** 329

**Person Testifying:** Stacey Oshio, Principal

**Title of Bill:** HB 1440 RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn program.  
Requires matching funds.

Olomana School strongly supports HB 1440 in appropriating funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

Olomana School provides educational services to students at the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), those detained at the Detention Home (DH), and at the Olomana Youth Center (OYC), which serves at-risk youth from Windward Oahu's secondary schools and also the HYCF youth who are in transit.

As Olomana School is a unique place with distinctive needs, our Hawai'i Keiki nurse conducted a health needs assessment of our particular site and surveyed parents about their health needs and wants. She used the data from the needs assessment and conversations with school staff to develop interventions specific to our student body.

The Hawai'i Keiki nurse conducts weekly youth development classes with the incarcerated female students. During the interactive classes, she covers topics including communication skills, values, goal-setting, decision-making, healthy relationships, and sexual and reproductive health. She also regularly contributes health articles to our school newsletter, ensures appropriate health screenings for our students, and created a school health profile report, which helped the school identify trends in health room visits throughout the year.

We strongly support this bill to ensure the continuation of this partnership to support our student population and to keep our keiki healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Oshio".

Stacey Oshio  
Principal